THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Three Doordarshan Kendras at Hyderabad, Vijaywada and Warangal and twelve All India Radio Kendras at Anantapur, Adilabad, Cuddapah, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Kottagudam, Markapuram, Nizamabad, Tirupati, Vijaywada, Vishakhapatnam and Warangal are currently functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Digitisation is a continuous and on-going process. However, so far as A.P. is concerned, Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) at Hyderabad was digitalized during 2004-05 at a cost of Rs. 12 crore. DDK, Vijaywada is envisaged to be partially digitalized during 2005-06 at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. Digitalization of DDK Warangal would depend upon the availability of resources in future plans.

As regards, AIR, digitalization schemes completed in the State are: (i) Hard Disk based recording, playback and editing system at nine centres, (ii) Upgradation of Captive Earth Station for Digital mode at Hyderabad, (iii) Digital studio transmitter link at Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam. As part of digitalization, a sum of Rs. 77 lakh has been proposed for fifty numbers of Hard Disk Based System work stations.

Fund collected from foreign and domestic broadcasters

1432. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign broadcasters are paying very low tax to Government as compared to the domestic broadcasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds collected from the foreign and domestic broadcasters during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to collect the tax from foreign broadcasters at par with the domestic broadcasters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Advertisements through DAVP

1433. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings have not reacted positively to the recent decision of asking public sector companies to release their advertisements only through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity;